

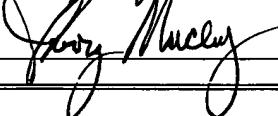
PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: CSI-2015

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313.

  
Harry Macey

In re Application of:

Nguyen, et al.

Serial No.: 09/828,335

Filing Date: April 5, 2001

Title: MULTIPLE LOOP TISSUE  
CONNECTOR APPARATUS AND  
METHODS

Examiner: U. Ho

Group Art Unit: 3731

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants submit for consideration in the above-identified application, a copy of each of the documents listed on the attached Substitute Form 1449A. Applicants further submit for consideration in the above-identified application, a copy of the Request for Corrected/Reprinted Patent and accompanying appendices, which were submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with U.S. Patent No. 6,607,541, which was cited in an Information Disclosure Statement on October 22, 2003. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- Within three months of the application filing date or before receipt of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.

- After receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.
- A fee is required. Authorization to charge the undersigned's deposit account \$180.00 is attached.

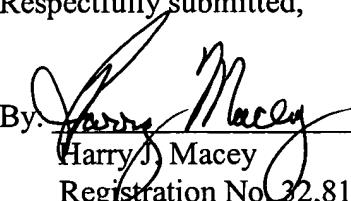
Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Substitute Form 1449A, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the U.S. Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-1947 referencing Attorney Docket No. CSI-2015.

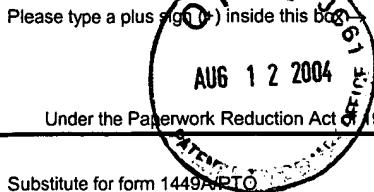
However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Harry J. Macey  
Registration No 32,818

Date: August 12, 2004

LAW OFFICE OF HARRY J. MACEY  
1301 Shoreway Road, Suite 121  
Belmont, CA 94002-4106  
Telephone: 650.654.9555  
Facsimile: 650.654.9554



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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031  
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Substitute for form 1449A PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	09/828,335
				Filing Date	April 5, 2001
				First Named Inventor	John D. Nguyen
				Group Art Unit	3731
				Examiner Name	U. Ho
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	CSI-2015

081204

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Documents		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, columns, lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
1.	4,994,069	Ritchart et al.		02/19/1991		
2.	5,941,888	Wallace et al.		08/24/1999		
3.	US2001/0018592 A1	Schaller et al.		08/30/2001		
4.	US2003/0074012 A1	Nguyen et al.		04/17/2003		
5.	US2004/0111099 A1	Nguyen et al.		06/10/2004		

#### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Documents			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

#### NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.